



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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October 28, 2007

Subject: Decision Notice for the Butte Trap Club EA

Dear Interested Parties:

For the 2007/08 biennium, the Butte Trap Club submitted a request for funding (\$15,797.50) to FWP's Shooting Range Grant Program to assist with the upgrade of 3 trap clay throwers and the replacement of 2 trap houses.

As part of the review process, the department conducted an environmental assessment and this letter is to inform interested parties about FWP's decision to award the grant.

The department received 20 comments, 18 of which were in support and 2 were in opposition to the proposed project.

Based on concerns raised by an adjacent landowner, FWP decided to award a partial grant (\$6,038.75) to fund the purchase and installation of an automatic trap machine in trap house #4 as well as the removal and replacement of the associated trap-house structure as specified in the original grant application.

FWP reviewed existing expert testimonies in regards to the concern of shotgun pellets landing beyond property boundaries and determined that there is no such risk associated with trap house # 4. By choosing the option of partial funding, there's no change to the environmental impacts associated with this project.

FWP will consider awarding the remaining funds (\$9,758.75) to upgrade the other 2 clay throwers and replace the other trap house if and when the agency receives a signed written agreement between the Butte Trap Club and adjacent landowners about the above mentioned safety concern being addressed to mutual satisfaction.

FWP will hold the remaining funds until May 1, 2008 in hopes that this issue can be resolved. In addition, the department offers to assist parties by facilitating the necessary meetings to come to a mutually acceptable resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Kurt Cunningham at (406) 444-1267 or kcunningham@mt.gov.

Respectfully,

Thomas Baumeister
Education Bureau Chief